

Remarks

In the Requirement for Restriction and Election of Species dated July 27, 2006, the Examiner has asserted that the presently claimed invention comprises thirteen (13) distinct inventions. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Restriction Requirement. Even *if* the Examiner can establish that the inventions are independent and distinct, the Examiner must *also* show that examination of such independent and distinct inventions together would constitute a serious burden. MPEP § 803. The Examiner has not shown nor even asserted such a burden. Accordingly, rejoinder is proper.

However, solely to advance prosecution, and not in acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have elected Group I, corresponding to previous claims 1-17. The Examiner has not required an election of species if Group I was elected.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 11 and 14-81 have been cancelled, claims 1-7, 10, 12 and 13 have been amended and claims 82-84 are new. These amendments are sought to correct minor typographical or grammatical errors, or to better clarify that which Applicants presently claim. These amendments are fully supported by the specification and the claims as originally filed, including *inter alia* originally-filed claims 1-17, and the specification at paragraphs [0027], [0043] and [0050]. Accordingly, these amendments do not introduce new matter. Moreover, presently pending claims 1-10, 12-13 and 82-84 correspond to the Examiner's Restriction Group I. Entry of these amendments, and consideration of the presently pending claims, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Simon J. Elliott
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 54,083

Date: August 28, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600